

ITEMS



Volume 61 No. 1

January 2019

Warm Welcome to Pastor Aaron and the Schellhas Family



It is with GREAT pleasure that we welcome Pastor Aaron Schellhas, his wife, Leeann, and children Natalee, Jarred, & Gretta. Pastor Aaron previously served as pastor at St. John's Lutheran Church in Woodstock, IL.

New Global Mission

In February, the Board of Stewardship will introduce Lutheran World Relief as our new world mission focus. We hope you have been inspired by the work of Lutheran Bible Translators as we learned more about their work and supported their mission the last two years. Please continue to keep LBT in your prayers.

Annual Spaghetti Dinner, Bingo & NEW This Year Our Preschool's Art Show For Education

Installation & Formal Reception for Pastor Aaron Schellhas

We want to remind all our members to circle **SUNDAY, JANUARY 13, 2019** on your calendars. Pastor Aaron's Installation Service will begin promptly at 3:00 pm, immediately followed by a ticketed formal reception at Tuscan Falls, located at 9425 W 191st St. Mokena, IL. **The last day to get tickets to the formal reception is Sunday, January 6th.** We invite all our members to join us for this GREAT occasion. All the pastors in our NID circuit and all the pastors who served Immanuel during the vacancy have been invited. Please join us in this celebration.

When Will The New Pastor Start?

Pastor Aaron cannot start preaching until after he is installed, therefore, he will begin preaching on Sunday, January 20. If you do need pastoral help, he will be available after he and his family move into their Mokena home on January 3. Please contact the church office for this help.



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 9 from 5PM-7PM

Mark your calendars for Immanuel's Famous Spaghetti Dinner. It includes all you can eat spaghetti, salad, fresh bread, desserts, and drinks followed by Bingo. Tickets can be purchased in advance at \$10 for adults, \$4 per child (5-12), and 4 and under are free. Also, Immanuel Lutheran Preschool will be hosting a "Art Show for Education" featuring many works of Art done by our very own preschoolers. This event will coincide with the annual Spaghetti dinner and Bingo. Silent auction items will be available for bid, as a fundraiser for the preschool.



Help The Schellhas' Get Acquainted With You

If you can find our name badge that was made for each member a few years ago, please start wearing it in January so Pastor Aaron and Leeann can learn our names a little easier.

SERVING THE LIVING LORD AT IMMANUEL

Mission Statement: "Caring and sharing since 1850, the mission of the family of God at Immanuel Evangelical Lutheran Church in Mokena is to effectively teach the Word of God, promote the spiritual growth of the Christian family, and continuously reach out with love and service."

Connecting people in loving relationship with God through Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit, with each other in contagious Christian community, and with our calling of servanthood in the world.

Financial Summary

	Nov 2018	2018 YTD	2017 YTD	YOY Change	
	\$	\$	\$	\$	%
Offering	23,607	289,721	332,705	-42,984	-13%
Interest	129	1,927	998	929	93%
Expense	18,579	251,572	286,631	-35,059	-12%
Balance	5,157	40,076	47,072	-6,996	-15%

Mortgage balance \$221,120

Reduced expense YOY primarily attributed to not having a full-time pastor from February through November.

Weekly Attendance

9:00am Sunday Services

December 02.....113
December 09.....100
December 16.....152 (Cantata/Christmas Program)
December 23.....97
December 30.....84

Mid-Week Advent Services

December 05.....34
December 12.....34
December 19.....22

Christmas Services

December 24.....127 (4pm)
December 24.....96 (10pm Candlelight)
December 25.....26 (10am)

Baptized Membership: 747
Confirmed Membership: 596
Households: 371

Official Acts

New Members by Transfer:

Shirley & Barry Schulz, December 29, 2018

Funeral: Peter Lovrich, January 12, 2019
Memorial Gathering 10am & Funeral 11am
At Immanuel Lutheran Church of Mokena

Elders

Immanuel has elders who assist the pastor during the worship service and outside of worship. Their job is to be of service to you in any cares/concerns you may have with the congregation and within your family. Here are your elders:

Elder 1: Marty Olsen 815-464-4373
Elder 2: Jim Bowlds 708-479-3757
Elder 3: Jim Bubeck 815-469-7573
Elder 4: Bruce Bechtel 815-485-5455
Elder 5: Nick Whittier 815-485-9269
Elder 6: Jerry Vrshek 815-469-5059 (Director)

Please contact these Elders should you have any needs/concerns/questions.

Bulletin & Items Publishing

Bulletin articles are due on Wednesdays by 9 a.m.

Articles for the February Items are due by **January 23rd** and will be on our website, mailed, and in the narthex after **February 3rd**. The Items Newsletter is also available online at immanuelmokena.org

If you plan to move or have already moved
PLEASE CALL OR EMAIL THE CHURCH OFFICE with your new address!!

Church Office
708-479-5600
ielc1850@att.net



Pastoral Coverage Schedule

Sunday, January 6: Pastor Duane Fluechtling
Sunday, January 13: Pastor Dennis Fitzpatrick
Sunday, January 20: Pastor Schellhas Begins

Putting It All In Perspective



(Photo: Judy Mentzer, Delynn Flannery and Deaconess Elly Sifuentes)

Delynn Flannery, Judy Mentzer and Barb Belanski had the privilege of serving at St. Matthews Soup Kitchen on Thursday, December 13th. We packed our car with homemade blankets and quilts courtesy of Immanuel's quilting ladies. As always, we were warmly greeted and thanked for coming. When one of the gentleman saw our bags of quilts, he jumped out of his seat, came running over, asking if by chance we had any socks to give him.....he pulled up his pants to show he was not wearing any socks. Immediately, my morning came to mind as I recalled surveying my array of shoes lined up by the door and deciding, should I wear boots, gym shoes, casual shoes or dress shoes. Socks were a given!



PLEASE DONATE MENS TUBE SOCKS

for our January 24th visit to
St. Matthew's Soup Kitchen – box
will be displayed in the narthex.

The hot meal of chicken and potatoes, rice, mixed vegetables, soup, beans, bread and beverage was one of the few meals the guests attending the soup kitchen would be receiving for the week. Constant words of 'gracias' and 'thank you' were repeated over and over as each guest filled their plate.

On each of our visits, we are humbled and thankful for God's blessings on this ministry. Our January visit is planned for **January 24th**. Everyone is invited to join us – we leave Immanuel about 10:45am and are back to Mokena by 2:00pm – please **call Barb at 708.995.5375 if you are interested.**

Planning For VBS 2019

Vacation Bible School for 2019 will be the Concordia program "Miraculous Mission - Jesus Saves the World". To hold this program next summer, we are in need of two important positions--a VBS Program Coordinator and a Registration Director. Once we have these volunteers in place, the VBS Program Coordinator can choose the week in June that would work best for her/him. We usually hold VBS either the third or fourth week in June.

If you are interesting in serving the Lord for either position in this most important outreach to children in our community, please contact Nancy Kaczmarczyk at 708-478-1042 for more information.

New Church Administrative Assistant



In early December, Nicolette Fitzpatrick joined the staff of Immanuel as the church administrative assistant. She has a background in graphic design and also has several years of general office experience. She resides in Mokena along with her husband and their two sons — her oldest son attends Immanuel's preschool. She has a degree in Visual Communications from the Illinois Institute of Art - Chicago and enjoys finding time to use her graphic design background along with her hobbies of photography, painting, and baking. She trained with Donna Bakken & Sarah Becthel for the first week and a half. Nicolette is becoming familiar with our church office, software, and members. Please welcome her to Immanuel when you visit the church office!



DONNA BAKKEN

FOR COVERING
THE CHURCH
OFFICE THE LAST
THREE MONTHS!

Time & Talent Forms and Commitment Cards

These forms will be distributed the second and third weekends of January and collected on the last weekend – January 26th and 27th. We appreciate your participation in this process – please give prayerful consideration to your response to God’s blessings in your life. The time and talent form will also be available on the website.



Thank You For Your Gifts

From the Board of Fellowship: “Thank you to all that purchased gifts for the children served by Morningstar Mission! You made their Christmas brighter. Thank you also for the donations to the organizations found on this year’s Giving Tree.”

Christmas Program 2018

From Nancy Mirocha & Lyn Thorne: “Thank you to everyone who participated in the Tapestry of Light Christmas Program. Many people helped in the preparation and we appreciate your support and involvement.”



Fall Fest 2018 Proves A Success

On behalf of the Ruth Society we want to thank each and every one (including the husbands) for your contributions (baking, crafting, dinner, set-up, take down, and the kitchen crew, etc) in making Fall Fest a huge success. We made close to \$4200. These monies will be used towards missions and projects around the church.

Ruth Society

Our next meeting will be Thursday, January 10th @ 7:30pm. Members 18 and older are welcome to join. We are even open if any mend would like to help us with altar Duty. Any questions please call Bev Whittier at 815-485-9269.

And They Came With Bells On...

The Ruth Society’s annual Christmas party was held on December 6th at Anthony’s on Front Street. The Italian fare was delicious: pizza, tossed salad, fried ravioli, tomato bread, mostaccioli, chicken parmigiana and chocolate/peppermint Bundt cake. The room was festive with homemade centerpieces by Jean and Judy Smith followed by holiday games led by Terri Hutson. The Immanuel party goers made their own music with their renditions of Christmas carols played on our tone bars...thinking we have the nucleus of a chime choir in the making!! Gifts of children’s socks, underwear, toys as well as cash donations were collected for ‘My Joyful Heart’. This annual tradition provides the opportunity to relax and enjoy the fellowship God has bestowed upon us and to prepare our hearts for the Advent season. We rejoice in His coming!



Thank you for your support of the LWML Northern Illinois mission grants with your mite offerings. If you don't have a mite box, help yourself to one from the LWML table in the narthex. Offerings will be collected January 6th and February 3rd.

As you fill your mite box, keep in mind the words of the following:

Amazing Mites (Tune: Amazing Grace)

Amazing mites are sent with prayer, Here and abroad
to share, With those in need, that is our aim, And
always praise His name.

Each coin is giv'n with loving heart. In this we have a
part. What joy it is to do God' work, From this we'll
never shirk.

Amazing mites, those coins so small, When in the box
they fall, Become a force for our dear lord, And spread
His Word abroad.

Our mites help many in despair. They show how much
we care. They tell the news of God's great love, And
point to heav'n above.

*excerpted from Overflowing Love, past LWML publication

Greeters Program: The Elders are looking for families, couples, or individuals to greet members and visitors as they come into church on Sundays. Arrive between 8:30 and 8:40 am before the 9 am service and bring your smile and a handshake. If you can help, please add your name to the Greeter Sign-Up sheet located on the bulletin. Questions? Call Jerry Vrshek at 815-469-5059.



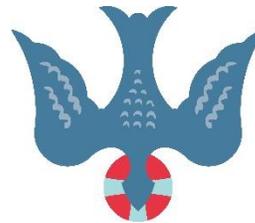
10	William & Carole Sluis	49 yrs
23	Roderick & Naomi Nagy	59 yrs
25	Thomas & Lisa Bartnik	34 yrs
25	Michael & Gina Dudczyk	26 yrs
26	Russell & Arianna Fleckenstein	28 yrs
27	Joseph & Pam Miller	07 yrs

We wish God's blessings on all these people celebrating a birthday or anniversary. If we have forgotten anyone's special day or it is in error, please contact the church office.



- 1 Melva Culbertson
- 7 Callie Cernauskas
- 7 Garrett Flesch
- 8 Jill Rodeghero
- 10 Bruce Malm
- 11 Savannah Bubeck
- 11 Randy Krause
- 11 Marilyn Miller
- 12 Nadia Kruspe
- 12 Nancy Mirocha
- 12 Gudrun Skrodal
- 13 Benjamin Rohder
- 14 Kate Garcia
- 15 Tiffany Dangman
- 15 James Eble
- 16 Austin Bubeck
- 17 William Nagy
- 18 Sebastian Malley
- 19 Sherry Sharpe
- 20 Audrey Brown
- 23 Mark Fuka
- 24 Theodore Obis
- 25 Matthew Howard
- 25 Judith Mentzer
- 27 Amanda Hutson
- 28 Ryan Klode
- 28 Nicole Mackey
- 29 David Prosken
- 29 Kelly Zellers
- 30 Mackenzie Burke,Becky
- 30 Steve Magnani
- 30 Steven Malm
- 30 Brandon Redweik
- 31 Harold Oesterreich

Christian Symbol



DESCENDING DOVE — A dove is a prominent symbol of the Holy Spirit. When the dove is shown flying downward, it reminds us of

Jesus' baptism, when, the gospel writers tell us, the Spirit descended on him in the form of a dove. Doves also symbolize baptism in general, because many Christian denominations teach that the Holy Spirit and its gifts are bestowed at baptism. Sometimes a dove is depicted with a three-ray nimbus around its head, indicating that it is a member of the Trinity. Doves are also commonly used as a sign of peace.

PRESCHOOL NEWS

- 01/01-01/07:** Christmas Break - No School
- 01/08:** Classes Resume
- 01/14:** 2019/2020 Member Registration
- 01/21:** No School
- 01/22 & 1/23:** Chapel Day
- 01/24 & 1/25:** Picture Day
- 01/31:** No School; P/T Conference & 2019/2020 Current Family Registration
- 02/01:** No School; P/T Conference & 2019/2020 Current Family Registration
- 02/09:** Art Show for Education Event
- 02/11:** 2019/2020 Public Registration



Sunday morning at 8:00 AM on Chicago's CW station WPWR channel 50 (Comcast 184)

Tel: (260) 471-LOVE (5683) | Toll-Free: (888) 286-8002

www.worshipanew.org/sermon-summaries

Email: info@LMMinc.org

Lutheran Ministries Media, Inc.

5 Martin Luther Drive, Fort Wayne, IN 46825-4996

Chicago and Northwest Indiana

JANUARY 6, 2019

Epiphany

Psalm 72:1-11; Epistle: Ephesians 3:1-12;

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

“The Mystery of Christ Made Known” - Sermon

Text: Ephesians 3:4-6 - Rev. Thomas Eggold

The mystery of Christ is the inclusive and universal message that Jesus Christ entered our humanity, lived a perfect life under the Law, died on a cross for the sins of the entire world and was raised from the dead, conquering death and giving all of humankind the certain promise of everlasting life. This is the Gospel that the Church has been commissioned to communicate!

JANUARY 13, 2019

The Baptism of Our Lord

Psalm 29; Epistle: Romans 6:1-11;

Gospel: Luke 3:15-22

“Baptised into Christ!” - Sermon Text: Luke

3:21-22 - Rev. Shayne Jonker

“For if we have been united with him in a death like his, we shall certainly be united with him in a resurrection like his” (Romans 6:5 ESV). This morning we celebrate the Baptism of our Lord in the Jordan, God in the flesh, and so also we celebrate our Baptism into Christ. What a great comfort in the midst of temptation and trial, sin and death, and every distress that we can say to ourselves, “I am baptized into Christ!”

JANUARY 20, 2019

Second Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm 128; Old Testament: Isaiah 62:1-5;

Gospel: John 2:1-11

“Manifesting His Glory” - Sermon Text: John

2:1-11 - Rev. Paul Shoemaker

We remember weddings as special, happy occasions. At the wedding at Cana, the unthinkable happened. Who would step in and save the day? Jesus has done much more than saved a wedding at Cana.

JANUARY 27, 2019

Third Sunday after the Epiphany

Psalm 19; Old Testament: Nehemiah 8:1-3,

5-6, 8-10; Gospel: Luke 4:16-30

“Read It and...Rejoice!” - Sermon Text:

Nehemiah 8:1-10 - Rev. William Mueller

In the dark days after the exiles returned from captivity in Babylon, the Word of God was rare. Ezra, the priest, reads and applies God's Word and the people respond with repentant weeping and abiding faith. The Word of God still has that same power for us – so we are invited to read it and rejoice!